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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

Technical Services Support for the Ministry of Economic Planning (GHA/78/006)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	March 1979
Starting date of project activities:	March 1979
Planned completion date:	December 1981
To be executed by:	United Nations
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Economic Planning
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$390 700
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The Ghana Central Bureau of Statistics, which forms part of the Ministry of Economic Planning, is engaged in the collection and processing of economic statistics required for planning purposes and for studying economic conditions in the country. The Bureau has offices in the capitals of each of the nine Regions of the country and also maintains a network of sub-offices situated in most of the principal centres of each Region.

2. At present the Bureau has just adequate middle-level personnel to carry out its day-to-day functions, but at higher levels there is a very acute shortage of qualified and experienced statisticians. Substantial assistance has been rendered by UNDP in the past in the form of technical personnel for organising work in a few sections of the Bureau and for training counterpart personnel, but many of the trained senior officers have now left the Bureau to take up substantially higher or better remunerated positions

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

elsewhere. Thus, while the trained statisticians have often become an asset to the country or to the international community, they are not available to the Bureau to perform the specific items of work in which they have experience and expertise. As a result, an overwhelming proportion of the approved positions of statisticians in the Bureau now remains unfilled. In turn, a major part of the technical work of the Bureau has fallen into arrears; moreover a number of complicated technical issues remain unattended for a considerable period of time.

3. The Bureau has therefore to rely again on technical assistance from the United Nations to improve the efficiency of some of its sections and to impart on-the-job training to new graduate statisticians now being recruited.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The objective of the project is to increase the efficiency of the Ministry of Economic Planning. To this end the national and international staff working together will: (a) collect and process statistics on various sub-sectors of the economy; (b) re-organize the work relating to external trade statistics in the Central Bureau of Statistics; (c) assist the National Accounts Section of the Bureau in solving various outstanding problems and compile national accounts for 1975 and subsequent years; (d) prepare working manuals for certain sections in the Central Bureau fo Statistics, where senior qualified statisticians are not available for day-to-day supervision; and (e) organize and conduct in-service training programmes (in addition to on-the-job training) for technical officers in the Central Bureau of Statistics with a view to increasing internal efficiency.

III. Inputs

5. UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, for the services of an economic statistician and a foreign trade statistician, fellowships in national accounting and general economic statistics and vehicles and office equipment.

6. The Government will provide qualified professional and supporting staff, office space, supplies and equipment directly to the project.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	$
Personnel	312 200
Training	42 000
Equipment	30 000
Miscellaneous	6 500
	390 700

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $138 600 in kind.

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